



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR CITY OF VALENTINE

VALENTINE, TEXAS, June 5, 2006-- Bryan Daniel, State Director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced today the City of Valentine has been selected to receive a 306C Colonia Grant in the amount of \$1,704,957 and a loan in the amount of \$100,000 from the USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Program. The funds will be used to construct a new wastewater treatment plant and make improvements to existing pits and septic tanks.

“One of the goals of USDA Rural Development is to help provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems,” said Daniel. “We are proud to be part of a project that will ensure this community remains a safe and healthy place to live.”

In Fiscal Year 2005, \$10.7 million of grant assistance was infused into the Texas USDA Rural Development Colonia Grant Program. The purpose of this grant program is to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to colonias’ throughout Texas. The state currently hosts 2,294 colonias, primarily along the 1,248 mile border with Mexico, in which approximately 400,000 Texans live. USDA Rural Development defines a colonia eligible for funding as a state or county identified community, with a population of 10,000 inhabitants or less, that is lacking basic living necessities and located within 150 miles of the Texas/Mexico border.

USDA Rural Development strives to see that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development Programs, contact the Fort Stockton Local Office at (432) 336-7585, Extension 4, or visit our website at <http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

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